

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W  
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R 231452Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4542  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5392

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, SY, US  
SUBJ: US ACCUSED OF PROMOTING ILLUSORY PEACE EFFORTS

1. IN SHARPEST CRITICISM OF US YET APPEARING IN SYRIAN MEDIA SINCE SECRETARY'S VISIT, US WAS ACCUSED OF SOWING FALSE HOPES IN ITS PEACE EFFORTS BECAUSE OF "FAILURE" TO SECURE ROLE FOR PALESTINIANS IN PEACE PROCESS. AHMAD SAWWAN WRITING IN THAWRA AUGUST 23 ARGUED THAT VANCE'S INABILITY TO FIND ROLE FOR PALESTINIANS DURING LATEST VISIT "INDICATES THAT AMERICAN MIRACLE OF FINDING A SOLUTION IS MERELY AN ILLUSION."

2. SAWWAN CLAIMED VANCE'S HOPES OF TRANSCENDING MAIN OBSTACLE OF FINDING SOLUTION TO OBSTRUCTIONS FACING GENEVA (PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION) HAD ACTUALLY HARDENED POSITIONS ON THE QUESTION--ESPECIALLY ISRAELI'S. HE CONTENDED THAT ARAB MODERATION HAD BEEN MET WITH INCREASED ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND NOTED THAT "OBSERVERS" WERE SAYING: "THE ARABS GAVE VANCE A BLANK CHECK BUT VANCE RECIPROCATED WITH AN UNCOVERED ONE." SAWWAN PROPOSED THAT ARABS SHOULD

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RECOGNIZE THAT US DID NOT WANT ME SOLUTION BUT WAS CONFINING ITS EFFORTS TO INSURING ISRAEL'S PRESENCE.

3. SAWWAN THEN DREDGED UP ARGUMENTS RELATING TO ZIONIST INFLUENCE OVER US FOREIGN POLICY AND DESIRE OF ISREEL LOBBY TO KEEP PLO OUT OF GENEVA. HE CONCLUDED THAT SECRETARY VANCE IS STANDING STILL WHILE APPEARING TO BE IN

MOTION, LIKE A "JUGGLER."

4. MORE MODERATELY WORDED EDITORIAL APPEARED IN BAATH ON EUROPEAN AND US REACTIONS TO ISREALI POLICY ON WEST BANK. EDITORIAL NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR LEWIS' RECENT CRITICISM OF NEW SETTLEMENTS WAS LATEST US STATEMENT ON POLICY WHICH US BEGAN CRITICISING AFTER LEGALIZATION OF THREE SETTLEMENTS ONWEST BANK IN JULY. IT SAW SUCH STATEMENTS MOTIVATED BY US DESIRE TO MAINTAIN ITS STATUS AS MEDIATOR AND ITS VIEW THAT SUCH POLICIES HAMPERED PEACE EFFORTS. EDITORIAL CONTENDED THAT US REALIZED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS WOULD LEAD ARABS TO RESORT TOUNIFIED ACTION. IN CONCLUSION, AL-BAATH CHARACTERIZED US POSITION AS NEGATIVE SINCE IT CONFINED ITSELF TO VERBAL CRITMGISM OF ISRAEL'S POLICY.

5. COMMENT: WHILE SYRIAN MEDIA OFTEN CRITICAL OF PERCEIVED US RETICENCE TO PRESSURE ISRAEL FOR CONCESSIONS, SAWWAN'S COMMENTS SIGNIFICANTLY STRONGER THAN ANY PREVIOUS EDITORIAL SINCE SECRETARY'S VISIT. BLUNTNES AND TENOR OF HIS VIEWS INDICATE SYRIAN FRUSTRATION AND CONCERN AT US INABILITY TO GENERATE ACCEPTABLE FORMULA FOR RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE WHILE ISRAEL PUSHING AHEAD WITH MEASURES ON VEWT BANK WHICH US APPEARS UNABLE TO COUNTER. AS SECOND EDITORIAL INDICATED US CRITICISMS OF ISRAEL'S WEST BANK POLICIES WELCOMED BUT VIEWED AS LESS THAN EFFECTIVE WAY OF REVERSING ISRAELI POLICY.

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MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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